

Order Number: # 03-12-03-23-40



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Tonto National Forest
Mesa Ranger District**

**Black Queen Area and Roads Temporary Closure Order
For Public Health and Safety**

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands and roads in the Mesa Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the "Described Area and Roads"):

1. Going into or being upon the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e)
2. Being on the Described Roads. 36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e).

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.
3. Forest Service volunteers and partners operating under a signed volunteer agreement or partnership performing official project work (i.e. sign installation, trash pickup) in the Described Area and Roads.

DESCRIBED AREA and ROADS

The Described Area is within Township 2 North Range 8 East Section 36 and Township 2 North Range 9 East Section PB42. It consists of all National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and trails within the Boundary starting at the junction of State Road (SR) 88 and the National Forest Service Boundary, then following West along the National Forest Boundary approximately 0.35 miles to the junction of the National Forest Boundary and NFS Road 1868, then following Northeast along NFS Road 1868 approximately 0.25 miles to the junction of NFS Road 1868 and the Non-Forest Service Ownership, then following South, East, and North around the Non-Forest Service Ownership approximately 0.4 miles to the junction of the Non-Forest Service Ownership and NFS Road 1891, then following Northeast along NFS Road 1891 approximately 0.5 miles to the intersection of NFS Road 1891 and SR-88, then following South along SR-88 approximately 0.75 miles to the point of beginning at the junction of SR-88 and the National Forest Boundary.

Described Area boundary roads NFS Road 1868 and NFS Road 1891 will be closed. SR-88 will remain open.

PURPOSE

To protect National Forest System resources and public health and safety of volunteer participants and Forest Service partners during a large-scale clean-up and restoration project within the Described Area.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from December 9, 2023, at 6:00 am through May 9, 2024, at 6:00 am, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area and Roads is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notice>
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Mesa Ranger District in Mesa, AZ, (480) 610-3300, and Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, AZ, (602) 225-5200, for more information about this Order.

6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Area and Roads.

Signed and issued on November 30, 2023.

NEIL
BOSWORTH
NEIL BOSWORTH
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest

Digitally signed by NEIL
BOSWORTH
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